

# **0500 - Education Department**

## **Interim Progress Report**

### **for the reporting period July 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003**

#### **Section I. Agency Update and Assessment**

##### **1. Emerging Issues at the Federal (National) or State level affecting the agency.**

The Arkansas Supreme Court in the matter of Lakeview School District No. 25 of Phillips County, Arkansas, et al., vs. Governor Mike Huckabee et. al. issued a ruling in November 2002, declaring the State's educational system to be unconstitutional.

No Child Left Behind federal legislation increases accountability; and State laws such as Act 1467 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session also increase accountability and reporting requirements.

These developments and other issues are briefly discussed below in responses #2 and #3. The new programs and approach from the 2nd Special Session of 2003, recessed in February 2004, that affect our Performance Plan and associated progress reporting, will be highlighted in the final Progress Report.

##### **2. Status of any new initiatives funded from General Revenue or General Improvement funds in the 2003 Legislative Sessions and other changes made through General Legislation.**

There are three new initiatives from General Revenues or General Improvement funds in the 2003 Legislative Session:

Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks (Fund Center 1QV) - \$100,000: These funds are being used to revise the current K-12 math frameworks, review the math frameworks content after revision to ensure rigor and alignment, and to conduct training for classroom teachers.

Distance Learning Demonstration Project (Fund Center 698) - \$3,000,000: These funds provided statewide distance learning classes to some 2,000 students in Arkansas public schools. Classes are provided from the Arkansas School For Mathematics and Sciences, Arch Ford Cooperative, Virtual High School, and ADE Distance Learning Sites.

Teacher Recruitment (Cost Center 350311): This initiative was begun by the State after a pilot study with New Teacher Project. This office provided a network for persons in the non-traditional track to learn how to enter the teaching workforce, a job placement service for licensed teachers already in the teaching workforce, recruiters to encourage college graduates and other patrons to enter the teaching profession, brochures, newsletters, and a statewide teacher job fair. All activities by this office are focused toward developing and providing a highly-qualified teaching workforce for Arkansas public schools. In 2003, over 100 public school districts and other educational entities signed up with the teacher recruitment for referral services.

##### **3. Discuss significant factors internal and external to the agency affecting agency performance.**

The loss of the Director in October 2003, with no permanent replacement hampered the agency's ability to move forward. The Lake View ruling resulted in the legislature requiring an adequacy study. This required a tremendous amount of resources to be redirected and not available for normal agency goals and operations. The Omnibus Act of 2003, established a comprehensive system of educational accountability to enforce the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation; the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program; No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001; the Arkansas Academic Distress Program, and the Arkansas Fiscal Distress Assessment and Accountability Program.

Comprehensive federal educational reform in No Child Left Behind Act changed the requirements for what must be included on the school report card. Several categories will be required that are not required by state legislation including the reporting of test scores by various subgroups. ADE is in the process of revising the report card to meet the new federal requirements. NCLB altered the timeline for development of the Science Benchmark exams. The deadline is 2007 for science benchmark implementation. For the 2002-2003 school year, the APSCN reporting system did not update certification changes. For the 2003-2004 school year, the reporting system has been corrected in order to determine the number and percent of fully certified teachers in the Arkansas public schools.

NCLB legislation changes the timeline for determining the number and percent of fully certified teachers in the Arkansas public schools. The Arkansas Supreme Court in the matter of Lakeview School District No. 25 of Phillips County, Arkansas, et al., vs. Governor Mike Huckabee et. al. issued a ruling in November 2002, declaring the state's educational system to be unconstitutional. In response to this ruling, the General Assembly enacted Act 94 of 2003. This act established the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy. That committee report was filed and had major implications for changes in the funding of Arkansas Public Schools both for formula programs and categorical funding.

School District financial reporting also converted from revenue based reporting to expenditure based reporting. The adequacy committee recommendations affected professional development requirements. Act 1769 and Act 1097 of 2003 require all public school districts to put all their funds and activities except food service on APSCN. Act 1802 of 2003 requires the department to maintain certain data on its website. Act 1761 of 2003 requires curriculum frameworks to be revised and aligned and requires collaboration with Higher Education. In addition, districts must assure compliance annually. Act 1116 of 2003 requires all courses taught to be aligned to curriculum frameworks and requires course approval by ADE of any course outside the required units.

Act 1192 of 2003 established a distance-learning project to improve course offerings in Arkansas schools to assist in shortage areas. A funding mechanism was established to fund the project out of the public school fund. Act 1060 of 2001 set up the parameters to guide the National Board process. The 2002-2003 number of candidates was affected by the new required selection process. Two actions have significantly altered the distance-learning environment since the approval of the 2003-2007 Strategic Plan. The ADE received a five-year grant from the U. S. Department of Education to develop an elementary distance-learning program that could be used as a public school choice option for parents. The Department received 2.3 million dollars for the first year of the project. The second action was passage of legislation by the General Assembly that defined the focus areas for distance learning and provided a source of funds for the Department to either provide distance-learning courses or obtain providers for the distance learning services. The objectives dealing with the hiring of math and science specialists were not implemented due to lack of funding.

#### **4. Provide comments on the usefulness and reliability of performance measures.**

Many factors affecting the successful completion of agency goals and objectives are out of the agency's control.

#### **5. Discuss significant uses of line item flexibility in this report period (agencies operating under Performance-Based Appropriations only).**

NA

**Program 1: Accountability**

**Goal 1:** To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a performance-based accountability and assessment system consisting of appropriate educational standards and assessments.

**Objective 1:** To revise and modify the required curriculum frameworks and supporting documents to meet existing academic standards to improve instructional opportunities for public school students.

Measure

NumberPerformance IndicatorsAnnual TargetActual YTDComments

1	Percent of academic curriculum frameworks revised and distributed	Math-100%	Math 10%	Begun January 2004
2	Percent of revised standards-based documents distributed	English Lang Arts Benchmarks/ World History/ US History Goals 100%	ELA 100% AR History 100% Biology 100% Civics 100%	
3	Percent implementation of sanctions and rewards for	Middle School Rating System- 100%	50%	Sanctions have not been implemented
4	Percent of science and social studies benchmark exams field tested and piloted	Field Test Science/ Social Studies Exams- 40%	0	See Below

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:**

Due to requirement of *No Child Left Behind, (NCLB)*, science and social studies have been delayed in order to develop the required literacy and math for grades 3, 5, and 7.

**Program 1: Accountability**

**Goal 1:** To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a performance-based accountability and assessment system consisting of appropriate educational standards and assessments.

**Objective 2:** To assess the performance of Arkansas public schools in meeting the established academic standards and other components of ACTAAP.

Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of schools meeting or exceeding ACTAAP accountability indicators	+5%	1,108 schools or 97% exceeded ACTAAP indicators	
2	Percent of seniors taking the	70%	75%	
3	Percent of Teachers fully	92%	92.3%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 2:**

The method of calculating adequate yearly progress changed with the full implementation of NCLB. Teachers being fully certified and highly qualified is part of NCLB regulations.

**Program 1: Accountability**

**Goal 1:** To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a performance-based accountability and assessment system consisting of appropriate educational standards and assessments.

**Objective 3:** To distribute by March 15 each year to every parent of a student enrolled in a public school in Arkansas a school performance report that, in addition to information prepared at the state level, includes information prepared locally regarding the school’s plan to improve student achievement.

Measure				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Number of School Performance Reports published and distributed annually	Approximately 450,000	448,000	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 3:**

These 448,000 reports represented 100% of the student enrollment for that period of time. 96% of report cards mailed were delivered to the address on file.

**Program 1: Accountability**

**Goal 1:** To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a performance-based accountability and assessment system consisting of appropriate educational standards and assessments.

**Objective 4:** To establish a technology-based professional licensure tracking and reporting system to improve the licensure process and provide an efficient database of professional educators in Arkansas.

Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of paper licensure files converted to an electronic process and data base	40%	15%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 4:**

ADE is in the process of contracting to complete the scanning of all remaining paper files.

**Program 1: Accountability**

**Goal 1:** To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a performance-based accountability and assessment system consisting of appropriate educational standards and assessments.

**Objective 5:** To monitor and assess program compliance with state and federal guidelines.

Measure Number	Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Actual YTD	Comments
1	Determine public schools not making adequate yearly progress	Monitor 100% of schools not making AYP and monitor 20% of all other schools	Monitored 100% for AYP Site Visits 20%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 5:**

Twenty five schools did not meet the AYP target. All schools were monitored. Twenty percent of the schools were also reviewed according to the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Planning Process.

**Program 2: Public School Finance**

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain a system of administrative and financial support of public school districts and other public educational entities.

**Objective 1:** To distribute state equalization aid and formulary funding to local school districts as approved by the State Board of Education, such as facilities funding, debt service funding, additional base funding, consolidation incentive funding, incentive funding, isolated funding, poverty index funding, revenue loss funding and student growth funding.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	100% accuracy in funding for 308 school districts on equalization distributions	100%	100%	
2	Percent accuracy of district debt schedules on ADE-SIS	100%	100%	
3	Number of audit exceptions on funding distribution and program administration	0	0	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:**



**Program 2:** Public School Finance

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain a system of administrative and financial support of public school districts and other public educational entities.

**Objective 2:** Provide technical assistance and support services for various public school administrative needs, such as school debt issuance, transportation safety training, school insurance needs, school plant management, and school financial reporting requirement.

Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Number of annual site visits to provide technical support	100 visits per year	70 visits	
3	Number of annual meetings to collaborate with APSCN, SIS and ASBO to develop training for public schools	4 Meetings per year	4 meetings	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 2:**

**Program 2: Public School Finance**

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain a system of administrative and financial support of public school districts and other public educational entities.

**Objective 3:** To continuously improve and maintain the system of providing technical assistance and support services to public educational entities and to provide concentrated assistance to school districts in fiscal distress.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Number of annual staff site visits of Phase I Fiscal Distress	3 visits per site	3 visits per site	
2	Number of annual staff site visits of Phase II Fiscal Distress	6 visits per year	6 visits per site	
3	Percent of Fiscal Distress Districts monitored for audit findings and exceptions	100%	100%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 3:**

Fiscal distress law was enacted in June 2003, to eliminate the various phases of fiscal distress monitoring. All districts will be monitored for fiscal distress indicators.

**Program 3: Instructional Support Services**

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 1:** By June 2007, to develop and implement a system designed to increase the number and quality of professional staff available to meet the instructional needs of the public schools of Arkansas.

MeasureNumber

	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of schools participating in mentoring programs	40%	100%	All school districts now participate in program.
2	Number of additional teachers entering advanced certification programs	175	188	
3	Percent of Praxis Cut Scores reviewed and revised on cycle	PPST/ Counseling/ Psychologist/ Media/ Family Consumer/ Speech/ Language - 100%	100%	All pass rates reviewed with no revalidation studies required

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:**

**Program 3: Instructional Support Services**

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 2:** By June 2007, to identify, develop, and implement professional development opportunities that support ACTAAP for all public school personnel to improve the quality of teaching in Arkansas public schools.

## Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Number of participants in Literacy, Math, and Assignment training for K-12 educators	1500	2,203 Literacy 1,677 Math	
2	Percent of secondary educators participating in content training	38%	0	No funds available
3	Number of additional Math Specialists hired to train and	0	0	No funds available
4	Percent of secondary schools participating in professional development training	38%	48%	
5	Number of districts that offer AP courses	110	202	
6	Number of new Science Specialists hired to train and	5	0	Funds not available

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 2:**

Technical assistance/professional development was provided by the School Improvement unit through the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Process.

**Program 3: Instructional Support Services (Continued)**

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 3:** By June 30, 2007, to implement a public school computer system designed to be used to make educational decisions that also provides for the collection of data needed to meet local, state, and federal reporting requirements.

## Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
6	The percent of full implementation of the public school computer system including all data collection components	35%	75%	The Annual School Improvement Plans were converted to electronic format. Federal program applications and budgets for Title I, II, IV, and VI were converted to electronic format.

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 3:**

A partnership was formed with the state library system to provide an electronic encyclopedia for all school districts. A partnership was formed with AETN to provide all students and teachers in Arkansas with access to over 20,000 videos and still pictures. The videos and other information has been correlated to the appropriate curriculum framework. The number of distance learning courses have been increased substantially and the ADE has provided resources to ASMS, Arch Ford Education Cooperative and Hot Springs School District to enhance the course offerings.

**Program 3: Instructional Support Services**

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 4:** By June 30, 2007, to expand the use of technology and distance learning opportunities in Arkansas Public Schools.

## Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	By June 30, 2007, to expand the use of technology and distance learning opportunities in Arkansas Public Schools.	Implement 25% of the distance learning system including 10 of the 38 units required by the state	Implemented 55% of distance learning system 21 of 38 units	
		40% of the districts will be utilizing distance learning	41% of districts utilized	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 4:**

Twenty one of the 38 required units are being offered during the 2003-2004 school year to approximately 35% of the school districts. If the K-12 elementary program is included, over 3,000 students are enrolled in at least one course which represents 126 districts or 41% of the state public school districts.

**Program 3:** Instructional Support Services

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 5:** By June 30, 2007, to implement an instructional technology system designed to improve student academic achievement as well as technology competencies of students and teachers.

Measure Number	Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Actual YTD	Comments
1	By June 30, 2007, to implement an instructional technology system designed to improve student academic achievement as well as technology competencies of students and teachers	80% of the teachers and admin. will have 12 hours of technology training	78% of teachers and administrators have 12 hours of technology training	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 5:**

There were more new teachers than expected with only 78% or 28,510 of the teachers in the individual districts.

**Program 3:** Instructional Support Services

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 6:** By June 30, 2007, a school improvement planning technology-based process will be implemented that incorporates all required state and federal programs into one consolidated school improvement plan.

Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent implementation of technology-based planning for Consolidated School Improvement Plan	Revision of Safe Drug Free Schools-67%	75%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 6:**

The technology-based consolidated School Improvement Plan was enhanced to include budgets and applications for Title I, Title II, Title V, and Title VI as well as the ACSIP plans for all schools in all districts.



**Program 3:** Instructional Support Services

**Goal 1:** To develop and implement a system of professional development, educational technology, instructional support services, and educational resources to support instructional and administrative functions at both the state and district levels.

**Objective 7:** To support early childhood education programs.

Measure Number	Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Actual YTD	Comments
1	Percent of the number of ABC grantees meeting the ABC Core Quality Component Model	100%	100%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 7:**

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 1:** To provide planning, policy development, and fiscal administration services to improve public education in Arkansas.

## Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent reduction in personnel costs and electrical utility costs per year	2%	3.59% increase in personnel costs 4.15% decrease in utility costs	
2	Percent implementation of improved entrance and exit system	50%	40%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:**

The state implemented a statewide pay plan increase as well as a 1% increase in the Teacher Retirement employer contribution. Card scanning system has not been implemented at entrances. Inventory scanning system has to be fully implemented prior to the entrance card system. Additional security cameras and multiplexors have been added for more thorough coverage of all entrances for all ADE facilities.

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 2:** To effectively utilize technology resources to carry out the mission of the Department of Education.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of financial reports to program managers	100%	100%	
2	Number of training sessions conducted on internal procedures and state and federal	3	4	
3	Number of proprietary information systems maintained by agency staff or through	Total Number	3	
4	Percent of agency budget dedicated to technology	Total Percent	0.53%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 2:**

Proprietary Information systems maintained by the agency are: (1) ORME - Office of Research Measurement and Evaluation. University of Arkansas College of Education Health Sciences - Student Performance Data only. (2) Cimmaron - Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Software used in all districts. (3) Arkansas Professional License System (APLS) - Professional Licensure and certification software that tracks all licensed teachers and administrators as well as criminal background information. Provides server and tech support. System provides Data Base and Imagery. Maintains all documents related to teacher licensure process.

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 3:** Align Department of Education financial and human resources to ensure fiscal responsibility and efficient use of state and federal resources in accordance with State Board Policy, Legislative action, and legal mandates to staff agency programs and the facilities where the Agency conducts its daily business.

Measure Number	Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Actual YTD	Comments
1	Number of state or federal audit findings related to financial transactions administered by internal administration	<3	2	2002 Audit Latest available

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 3:**

The Legislative Audit annual financial report for year ending June 30, 2002, the latest audit available, had four findings for our agency. One dealt with AASIS procedures and structures which internal administration did not administer. The last finding dealt with Arkansas Public School Computer Network structure and procedures which internal administration does not administer.

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 4:** To improve administrative reporting through the operation of the Arkansas Public School Computer Network.

Measure				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of schools fully utilizing APSCN for administrative	100%	100%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 4:**

All public school districts utilize the APSCN system for administrative reporting. Four districts use their own internal database system but comply with APSCN reporting by submitting the required data elements from their system in the prescribed format. They are Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pulaski County, and Lake Hamilton. Progress continues to be made in consistency and standardization of report formats.

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 5:** To provide grants management and oversight for all grants administered to Public School Districts and other public educational entities.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Timely distribution of grants	100%	99%	One program manager requested funds be held from districts due to reporting problems.
2	Monthly financial reports to Program managers	100%	100%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 5:**

**Program 4:** Administration and Support Services.

**Goal 1:** To continuously improve and maintain administrative services of the Department to support public educational entities and other appropriate stakeholders.

**Objective 6:** To provide for general operations support and overhead costs to provide administrative support for Arkansas Public Schools and programs.

Measure Number	Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Actual YTD	Comments
1	Monthly financial reports to Program managers	100%	100%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 6:**

**Program 5: Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science**

**Goal 1:** To enhance the academic curriculum for students of the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences, to enhance professional development opportunities for Arkansas teachers, and enhance distance learning education opportunities for all Arkansas students, and to develop enhanced instructional units for statewide use.

**Objective 1:** Enhance the academic curriculum at ASMS, professional development opportunities for regular classroom teachers, and distance learning education offerings to Arkansas Public Schools.

Measure

NumberPerformance IndicatorsAnnual TargetActual YTDComments

1	Percent of select courses with honor's designation	20%	0%	Board decision was made not to pursue
2	Percent of curricular offerings reviewed annually	100%	100%	
3	Number of Institutions of Higher Education with which ASMS has contacted regarding dual credit/articulation agreements	2	3	
4	Percent Utilization of advanced laboratory for biology and	12% students participating in lab activities	75%	
5	Number of enhanced units of instruction for statewide dissemination	25 Units	25 Units	
6	Number of professional development workshops	2	6	
7	Number of new Distance Learning content courses offered each year	1 per year	8	
8	Number of contacts with technology companies to explore alternative delivery systems for distance learning	3	10	
9	Percent of ASMS completers	85% Retention	78%	

**Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:**

The ASMS Board decided to eliminate honors courses and pursue articulation and concurrent enrollment instead.